

roux-brunâtres deviennent de plus en plus courtes dans la même direction.

La partie basale des barbes externes des rémiges primaires est d'un roux-brun plus sombre ou moins clair que chez la *S. graminicola*. Chez cette dernière les trois paires de rectrices externes sont d'un roux-brun ou canelle uniforme jusqu'à la base. Seules les tiges et une bordure étroite sur chaque barbe de la troisième rectrice sont noirâtres. La quatrième rectrice présente une large bande d'un roux-brun sur la barbe interne, ce qui n'est pas le cas chez la *S. punensis*. Il paraît aussi que la *S. punensis* aurait des dimensions un peu plus fortes.

Chez la *S. anthoides* le dessin des rectrices externes est presque comme chez la *S. punensis*, mais les extrémités sont d'un roux plus clair. La *S. anthoides* se distingue aussi par la strie sourcilière et le milieu de l'abdomen, qui sont blanchâtres au lieu d'être roussâtres, etc.

XLVII.—Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.

[Continued from p. 515.]

116. 'Annals of Scottish Natural History.'

[The Annals of Scottish Natural History. No. 37, January 1901; and No. 38, April 1901.]

Messrs. W. Eagle Clarke and T. G. Laidlaw open the year with some valuable notes on the migratory birds which visit Southern Shetland in autumn; and Mr. William Evans gives us the result of his investigations during the last two seasons on *Motacilla alba* in the Forth area. Some remarks by Saunders on the Great Shearwater (*Puffinus gravis*) are intended to call attention to the observations of Capt. Collins in the Bay of Fundy, which appear to have been overlooked. To the April number, Mr. Laidlaw contributes the first instalment of his Report on the movements and occurrences of birds in Scotland during 1900; and it is clearly shown that the interest taken by keepers at light-

stations as well as by inland observers is increasing in a highly satisfactory manner.

In Mr. Robert Service's notes from the Solway district there occurs a very remarkable record of the capture of a Honey-Buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*) on January 17th of this year, and, as the narrator examined the bird alive, there can be no doubt about the identification. Among the minor notes, the most interesting is the record by Mr. W. L. MacGillivray of the occurrence of the Barred Warbler (*Sylvia nisoria*) at Barra, on October 29th last, the specimen having been very properly presented to the Edinburgh Museum: it is the third recorded for Scotland.—H. S.

117. 'The Auk.'

[The Auk. A Quarterly Journal of Ornithology. Vol. xviii. Nos. 1 and 2, January and April 1901.]

The January number of our contemporary begins with an interesting obituarial notice, with portrait, of our esteemed Foreign Member, Elliott Coues, by Mr. D. G. Elliot; and this is followed by a similar notice of George B. Sennett, by Professor J. A. Allen. Four well-marked island-forms from San Miguel Island, one of the Pearl group in the Bay of Panama, are described as new species by Mr. Outram Bangs. Mr. J. H. Fleming contributes a somewhat lengthy paper, with a map, on the birds of Parry Sound and Muskoka, Ontario; while Mr. E. W. Nelson describes five new species of birds from "Mexico," which seems to be used as a geographical expression for anything between Tepic, Guatemala, and Tabasco. A lengthy and valuable paper by Dr. Jonathan Dwight, Jr., on the Sequence of Moults and Plumages of the Laridæ, is followed by an admirable report of the American Committee for Bird-Protection, the portion by Mr. William Dutcher on the special protection accorded to Gulls and Terns, due to certain funds placed at the disposal of the Committee by the benevolence of Mr. Abbott H. Thayer, being particularly noteworthy. As this statement extends over many pages, we cannot even give an abstract of it, and must content ourselves with saying that the results

have been eminently satisfactory. The protection has reference chiefly to the Atlantic coast between New England and Virginia, but we understand that strenuous efforts are being made to enforce similar measures along the shores of Louisiana and Florida.

In the issue for April, besides papers of local interest, Mr. W. Brewster records the occurrences of the Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*) and the Teal (*Querquedula crecca*) in Massachusetts; while Mr. J. L. Bonhote sends a list of the birds obtained at the Cay Lobos lighthouse, Bahamas. Mr. O. Widmann's account of a visit to Audubon's birthplace appeals to naturalists on both sides of the water. A study of the genus *Macrorhamphus*, with a map shewing breeding-ranges and the lines of migration of *M. griseus* and *M. g. scolopaceus*, shows conscientious work on the part of Mr. R. H. Howe, jr.; while Mr. Henshaw makes some instructive remarks upon "Birds of Prey as Ocean Waifs," with special reference to the Short-eared Owl (*Asio otus*) in the Hawaiian Islands where it has been a resident sufficiently long to obtain an important place in the mythology of the natives, though not long enough to occasion perceptible variation from the mainland type. In a paper on "The Pterylosis of *Podargus*, with notes on the Pterylography of the Caprimulgi," Mr. H. Lyman Clark lays stress upon the Strigine affinities displayed by these birds and their remoteness from the Cypselidæ. Prof. J. Allen's republication (No. 2) of descriptions of new species and subspecies of North American birds will doubtless receive due attention from the Recorder of 'Aves.' Dr. L. Stejneger's article on the Wheatears of North America has been already noticed (*v. s.* p. 513). Mr. A. W. Anthony states from numerous observations, when taking his "trick" at the wheel, that the Albatross *does* fly in the wake of ships, even on dark nights; and after a lapse of thirty-five years the writer of this notice is pleased to have his experiences (*Ibis*, 1866, p. 125) confirmed by one who is a seaman as well as an ornithologist. We are sorry to learn from an eye-witness, Mr. H. K. Job, that the Magdalen Islands, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, are not protected

by the Canadian authorities, and that after the fishermen had taken everything they could reach, they "fired raking shots again and again into the masses of birds upon their nests, mowing them down like grass, to leave them there dead or dying—a most horrible and pathetic sight." From Mr. Henshaw come records of the first occurrences of the Pectoral Sandpiper (*Tringa maculata*) and the Grey Plover (*Squatarola helvetica*) in the Hawaiian Islands, with notes on other rare visitants to that group. Mr. Walter Faxon's remarks on early editions of Wilson's Ornithology will interest bibliographers; and the decease of Mr. George Boardman at the ripe age 83 will cause a pang to several of our older ornithologists. We would also express our sincere sympathy with Mr. R. Ridgway, of Washington, on the loss he has sustained by the death of his promising son, Mr. Audubon Whelock Ridgway.—H. S.

118. *Berg's Critical Remarks on Chilean Birds.*

[Notas Criticas referentes á las contribuciones al Estudio de las Aves Chilenas de Federico Albert. Por Carlos Berg. An. Soc. Cientif. Argentina, li. pp. 55-61, 1901.]

Señor Berg finds great fault, as well he may, with the synonymy and identifications used by Señor Albert in his 'Contribuciones al Estudio de las Aves Chilenas,' which have been recently published in the Annals of the University of Chili, and especially points out grave errors in his treatment of the Caprimulgidæ and Ardeidæ of that country. But we cannot agree with Señor Berg that everyone ought to call the "Rosy Spoonbill" *Ajaja ajaja*, and the Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*, for we do not ourselves recognise the obligations of the new system of tautonyms.

119. *Berg's Ornithological Notes.*

[Ornithologisches. Von Karl Berg. Comm. d. Mus. Nac. Buenos Aires, i. pp. 283-287, 1901.]

The author tells us, among other things, that the English Sparrow was introduced into Buenos Ayres in 1872 with the

view of checking the ravages of a Psychid moth, *Æceticus platensis*, which was a great pest to the gardens there. Not only, however, has our Sparrow failed to do this, but it has become a great pest itself, and has almost exterminated the little bird (*Zonotrichia pileata*) that plays the part of the European Sparrow in most parts of South America.

Herr Berg also gives further evidence to show that the egg on which *Rhea nana* of Lydekker (see *Revista Mus. La Plata*, vi. p. 103) was established is only an abnormally small egg of *Rhea darwini*.

120. *Blanford on the Distribution of Indian Animals.*

[The Distribution of Vertebrate Animals in India, Ceylon, and Burma. By W. T. Blanford, LL.D., F.R.S. (Abstract.) *Proc. Roy. Soc.* lxxvii. pp. 484-492.]

This is an abstract of a memoir, read before the Royal Society by one of our highest authorities on the subject to which it refers, and ultimately to be published in the 'Philosophical Transactions.' Dr. Blanford divides the whole area of which he treats into 19 "tracts," and states the conclusions arrived at after a review of their different faunas. He recognizes three subregions in the continental portion of the Indo-Malay or Oriental Region—namely, the Cisgangetic, Transgangetic, and Malayan.

121. *Campbell's 'Nests and Eggs of Australian Birds.'*

[Nests and Eggs of Australian Birds, including the geographical distribution of the species and popular observations thereupon. By Archibald James Campbell, Melbourne. With Maps, 28 Coloured Plates, and 131 Photographic Illustrations. Printed for the author by Pawson & Bailford, Sheffield. 2 vols. 8vo. 1901. Price £3 3s. net.]

We have received with great pleasure the two handsome and well illustrated volumes now before us, in which Mr. Campbell has recorded not only his own experiences but a summary of all that is as yet known of the Nests and Eggs of the Birds of Australia. It is stated that Gould had planned a book on the subject, and these volumes are appropriately dedicated to that great 'Birdman,' as he loved to call himself, and to his principal collector, Gilbert. They

have a photographic print of Gould's likeness as a frontispiece to the first volume and one of the author to the second.

The arrangement and nomenclature of the present work are taken, with few exceptions, from the British Museum Catalogue, to which references are always given. We cannot, however, altogether approve of the vernacular names adopted, as it is not expedient to employ such well-known terms as "Tit," "Bell-bird," and "Tree-creeper" for Australian birds of quite different genera. References to previous authorities on the nesting and eggs of every species are also regularly added. The letterpress under each heading contains an account of the "Nest" and the "Eggs," besides "General Observations," which are full and well-written.

The first volume of Mr. Campbell's book concerns the Accipitres, Striges, and Passeres — comprising altogether 417 species; the second deals with all the remaining Orders, comprising 348 species: so that the total number of "Australian Birds," as here enumerated, is 765.

The letterpress is profusely illustrated by excellent uncoloured plates of the nests and eggs, prepared from photographs taken by the author and his friends. At the end of the second volume are twenty-seven coloured plates of eggs, of which we can likewise speak very favourably. In fact we may say that Mr. Campbell's work is of a high order of merit, and reflects great credit alike upon the author and the well-known firm who have produced it.

122. *Chapman on the Great Blue Heron of America.*

[A new race of the Great Blue Heron, with remarks on the status and range of *Ardea wardi*. By Frank M. Chapman. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. xiv. pp. 87-90, 1901.]

The author proposes to separate the form of *Ardea herodias* of the north-west coast-region of North America "from Victoria northward" as a new subspecies, under the title *A. h. fannini*. At the same time he points out that the resident representative of this Heron in Florida, which has been called *Ardea wardi*, is nothing more than a southern

form of *A. herodias*, with which it intergrades, and that it should consequently be reduced to the rank of a subspecies, as *A. h. wardi*.

123. *De Vis on a new Parrot.*

[Description of a *Charmosinopsis*. By C. W. De Vis. Annals of the Queensland Museum, No. 5, p. 12, 1900.]

Mr. De Vis describes and figures *Charmosinopsis bella*, a new Lory from British New Guinea, based on six examples brought to Brisbane by Sir William Macgregor, lately Governor. The exact locality is "probably" the Wharton Range. The species is allied to *C. pulchella*.

124. *Finsch's Lists of the Birds in the Leyden Museum.*

[Zur Catalogisirung der ornithologischen Abtheilung von Dr. O. Finsch. II.-V. Notes Leyden Mus. xxii, pp. 129-161, 193-224.]

Dr. Finsch proceeds with his reviews of the specimens of birds in the Leyden Museum, and in these parts deals with the Steppe-Eagles, the South-sea Parrots, the Stonechats, and various genera of Indian Passerines. Of the Steppe-Eagles he allows 10 species, following Suschkin, who has lately carefully studied the full series at Leyden. "Damara-land" is a curious locality for *Aquila orientalis*, where a specimen is said to have been obtained by Andersson in 1862.

In discussing the *Pyrrhulopses* of the South Pacific, Dr. Finsch comes to the conclusion that *P. tabuensis* is not an introduced species in the Tonga-group, as has been supposed, but an indigen, the existence of which on Tongatabu and Eua was ascertained by Cook in 1773, though it may have since become extinct on the former island.

The Saxicolinæ, represented at Leyden by 191 examples of 19 species, are reviewed at some length.

Writing of the Passeres of various genera of the families Oriolidæ, Dieruridæ, Muscicapidæ, Sylviidæ, Timeliidæ, Zosteropidæ, and Nectariniidæ, contained in the Leyden Museum, Dr. Finsch institutes two new genera and three new species. The former are *Eugerygone* (for *Pseudogerygone rubra* Sharpe) and *Pseudoxenicus* (for *Micrura super-*

ciliaris Bp.) ; the latter are *Brachypodius baweanus* from Java and the Bavian Islands, *Cettia bivittata* from Timor, and *Malacocincla büttikoferi* from Borneo.

125. *Finsch on a new Fruit-Pigeon.*

[Ueber eine neue Treron-Art von den Kangean-Inseln von Dr. O. Finsch. Notes Leyden Mus. xxii. p. 162.]

Treron vordemani is a new species from the Kangean Islands. It has been referred by Mr. Vordeman to *T. griseicauda* of Java, but is distinct.

126. *Forbes on rare Birds in the Derby Museum.*

[Notes on some rare Birds in the Lord Derby Museum. By Henry O. Forbes. Bull. Liverp. Mus. iii. p. 61.]

Mr. Forbes writes on *Zebrilus pumilus*, a rare Bittern from Guiana, of which a plate is given, and on the unique specimen of *Porphyrio stanleyi*, supposed by some authors to be an albino of *Porphyrio melanotus* (cf. B. M. Cat. xxiii. p. 205), a fact which Mr. Forbes says it is "difficult to bring oneself to believe." The "historical specimen" was brought to Europe by Banks, who accompanied Cook on his first voyage; it is supposed to have been obtained in New Zealand, but this is not certain.

127. *Hartert on the Birds of the Key Islands and of Ceram-Laut.*

[On the Birds of the Key and South-east Islands and of Ceram-Laut. By Ernst Hartert. Nov. Zool. viii. p. 93.]

Mr. Hartert continues his review of the birds of these groups, the first part of which we have already mentioned (see above, p. 503). Fifty-five more species are added, which brings the total of the avifauna up to sixty-nine.

128. *Hartert on the Birds of Timor-Laut.*

[On a Collection of Birds from the Timor-Laut Islands. By Ernst Hartert. Nov. Zool. viii. p. 163.]

Mr. Kühn has furnished the Tring Museum with a fine

series of 400 birds from the Tenimber or Timor-Laut Islands, which he visited in 1900-1, and we have here an account of the collection, prefaced by some interesting general remarks. Specimens of nearly all the birds peculiar to the group were obtained. They are referred to 63 species and sub-species, of which *Dicrurus kühni* and *Rallina tricolor victa* are characterized as new.

129. *Heathcote on the Birds of St. Kilda.*

[St. Kilda. By Norman Heathcote. 8vo. London, 1900. Pp. i-xiii & 1-229. Price 10s. 6d., net.]

Mr. Heathcote's book on St. Kilda, though written chiefly to furnish a more trustworthy account of the character and nature of the people, and of the charms of the rock-scenery—not omitting the difficulty of access—contains a chapter of more than fifty pages on its birds. The author describes himself as being no ornithologist, but it seems to us that he has every reason to consider himself such, so far as his experiences go. It is true that he calls the Guillemot *Uria bruennichi*, more or less by accident, and is a little "shaky" in a few technical details, but he gives a singularly vivid account of the bird-life of this solitary island, which will be found much more interesting in the case of so small an area than a dry scientific treatise. There is an accurate map, while the illustrations are for the most part good, though the potato-like effect in that at p. 164 shows what a camera can do when it chooses.

130. *Hellmayr on the Paridæ, Sittidæ, and Certhiidæ.*

[Kritische Bemerkungen über die Paridæ, Sittidæ, und Certhiidæ. Von C. E. Hellmayr. J. f. O. 1901, pp. 169-190.]

The author, who is preparing a synopsis of these three families for the 'Tierreich,' gives us a series of useful notes on the genera and species from his study of them during the progress of his work. Under the Paridæ he places four sub-families—the Regulinæ, Polioptilinæ, Parinæ, and Paradoxornithinæ. "*Penthornis*" is proposed as a new generic term

for *Parus luzonensis* and *P. semilarvatus*, and *Ægithospiza* for *Parus fringillinus* Fisch. & Rehw. The name *Neositta* is suggested in place of *Sitella*, because it is alleged that Rafinesque in 1815 used *Sitella* as equivalent to *Sitta*. This change appears to us to be quite unnecessary, as Rafinesque did not define his name, which may be safely left in oblivion.

Herr Hellmayr considers *Salpornis emini* of Hartlaub as probably distinct from *S. salvadorii*, although Shelley and Sharpe agree in uniting these two supposed species. He has examined Hartlaub's type.

131. Helms on the Food of Danish Owls.

[Om nogle danske Uglers Gylp. Af O. Helms. Vidensk. Medd. fra den naturh. Foren. i Kjöbenhavn, 1901, pp. 55-65.]

The author has carefully examined a large number of the "castings" thrown up by individuals of the four ordinary species of Owls that inhabit Denmark—*Syrnium aluco*, *Athene noctua*, *Otus vulgaris*, and *Strix flammea*, and gives the contents of the castings in a series of tables. These shew that by far the greater portion of the Owls' food consists of small mammals (Insectivora and Rodentia), though remains of small birds (*Passer domesticus* &c.) are occasionally ejected.

132. Jacobi on Biogeographical Distribution.

[Lage und Form biogeographischer Gebiete. Von Dr. Arnold Jacobi. Zeitschr. d. Gesellsch. f. Erdkunde zu Berlin, xxxv. Heft 3, 1900.]

Dr. Arnold Jacobi's essay on Biogeographical Regions should be read by all students interested in the subject, although some of the conclusions at which he has arrived are not to be commended. On the whole he adopts the primary division of the globe into Arctogæa, Neogæa, and Notogæa, but makes three "Regions" out of the first, five out of the second, and two out of the third—thus raising the Regions to ten in number, and rating the Hawaiian Archipelago and New Zealand as of equal value to Africa and South America. Again, to get over the difficult question of

the Nearctic Region, Dr. Jacobi divides it into two halves, assigning the northern half to Arctogæa and the southern to Neogæa under the hybrid name of the "Neoboreal Region." This would not tend to simplify matters, as we should thus find ourselves burdened with Tyrannidæ, Trochilidæ, and other purely Neogæan forms in Arctogæa.

Besides his chart of general distribution, the author gives us a second chart to illustrate the localities of the species of Jays (*Garrulus*) and Bullfinches (*Pyrrhula*).

133. *Le Souëf on the Birds of the Riverina District of New South Wales.*

[A Visit to the Riverina District, New South Wales. By D. Le Souëf. C.M.Z.S. Victorian Naturalist, xvii. No. 10, 1901.]

Mr. Le Souëf sends us a sketch of the bird-life of the Riverina District of New South Wales in a season when a copious rainfall had completely filled the Murray River and its adjacent lagoons. This event induced a large number of Ibises and other water-loving birds to resort there for breeding-purposes. A colony of Straw-necked Ibises was estimated to consist of at least 200,000 individuals. Spoon-bills, Herons of several species, Cormorants, Ducks, Geese, Avocets, Stilts, and Cranes were likewise found nesting in the same district.

134. *Lorenz-Liburnou's History of Ornithology in Austria.*

[Geschichte der Zoologie in Osterreich von 1850 bis 1900. Vögel von Ludwig von Lorenz-Liburnau. Festschr. d. fünfzigjahr. bestandes d. k.k. zool.-bot. Ges. in Wien. 4to. Wien, 1901.]

Herr v. Lorenz contributes the ornithological portion to a history of the progress of Zoology in Austria and Hungary during the last fifty years. He divides this space of time into decennial periods, and reviews shortly the principal publications relating to Ornithology issued during each of them, sorting these according to the localities to which they refer and other subjects. The predominant figure in Ornithology in Austria during the past fifty years has

certainly been August v. Pelzeln, of whom a lithographic portrait is given.

135. *Nelson on the Birds of Yorkshire.*

[The Birds of Yorkshire : commenced by Wm. Eagle Clarke, F.L.S., M.B.O.U., Museum of Science and Art, Edinburgh ; and continued by Thomas H. Nelson, M.B.O.U., The Cliffe, Redcar. Trans. Yorks. Nat. Union, Part 24, May 1901.]

The species treated in this instalment of the 'Birds of Yorkshire' are the Rock-Thrush, the Hedge-Accentor, the Alpine Accentor, the Redbreast, the Nightingale, the White-spotted Blue-throat, and the Red-spotted Blue-throat. Apart from the details of migration, on which we are always glad to have Mr. Clarke's *dicta*, and references to notices of birds in the county by early writers, the most interesting article is that on the Nightingale, which shews that the species can hardly be said to have extended its range much in Yorkshire, but that previous records have often been ignored. We fancy, however, that we can still further extend the northern range of the Nightingale, unless our authors discredit the occurrence (stated on authority similar to that accepted) of the bird during the summer of 1893 near Whittingham, in Northumberland (Proc. Berwickshire Nat. Club, xiv. p. 202).

136. *Nisbett and Finn on the Kaleeye Pheasants.*

[Notes on some Kalij Pheasants from the Kachin Hills in the possession of the Bombay Natural History Society. By Capt. W. G. Nisbett and F. Finn. Journ. Bombay N. H. Soc. xiii. pp. 521-528.]

The immediate subject of this paper is a set of Pheasants of the genus *Gennaëus* obtained by Capt Nisbett in the Kachin Hills, north of Bhamo, which are considered by the authors as "hybrids of various grades" between *G. horsfieldi* and *G. andersoni*. With the latter it is proposed to unite *G. rufipes* of Oates and *G. beli* of Oustalet.

A useful synoptic table of the seven species of the group is added.

137. *North on the Destruction of Birds in Australia.*

[The Destruction of Native Birds in New South Wales. By Alfred J. North, C.M.Z.S., Ornithologist. Rec. Austral. Mus. iv. pp. 17-21, 1901.]

We regret to find that, as in Europe and North America, the destruction of bird-life is proceeding at a great pace even in Australia. Rifle-birds and Bower-birds are in constant demand at Sydney for ladies' hats. Two hundred and fifty Lyre-birds (*Menura superba*) are reported to have been slaughtered in one locality for the sake of their tails. A Bird-Preservation Act passed in 1895 is "more honoured in the breach than in the observance." In the vicinity of the great cities Sparrows and Starlings are fast ousting the native birds, and in the immediate neighbourhood of Melbourne "hardly a single native bird is to be seen." Other active agents of destruction are "phosphorized oats," scattered about to destroy the rabbits, and domestic cats, introduced for the same purpose. We trust that Australians will take warning in time, and endeavour to find some remedy for this sad state of affairs.

138. *Oates's Catalogue of Birds' Eggs.*

[Catalogue of the Collection of Birds' Eggs in the British Museum. Vol. I. By Eugene W. Oates. London. Printed by Order of the Trustees. Pp. 452. 18 Plates. Price 25s.]

The first volume of the Catalogue of Birds'-eggs in the British Museum, to the progress of which we have referred on several occasions, is now published. It follows exactly the nomenclature and arrangement of the 'Hand-list,' and contains an account of the eggs of the Ratitæ and of the Carinatae from the "Tinamiformes" up to the Lariformes—including altogether 520 species, the eggs of which are illustrated from 12,156 specimens. Under the head of each species, as named in the 'Hand-list,' are given the principal references relating to the eggs and the nesting. Then follows a description of the egg, and a list of the specimens, with localities and the mode of acquisition added; general remarks on the colour and shape of the eggs are also often given under the heads of the Genera, Orders, and other larger divisions.

In his "Introduction," Mr. Oates reviews the history of the great Collection of eggs from its commencement. It appears to have been begun in 1842, when the late D. W. Mitchell presented some eggs of British birds, chiefly from Cornwall. In 1850 the collection made during the voyage of the 'Rattlesnake' arrived, in 1852 that made in the course of the voyage of the 'Acheron,' and in 1871 the series collected during the Transit-of-Venus Expedition in Kerguelen.

But it was in 1885 that the two greatest acquisitions were made, by the presentation to the Trustees of the magnificent collection of Indian Eggs of Mr. Hume, and of the splendid series amassed in the cabinets of Messrs. Salvin and Godman, which was especially rich in specimens from America. In 1891 Mr. Howard Saunders presented his well-selected series of the eggs of the Laridæ, and in 1893 Seebohm made over his celebrated collection, chiefly of Palæarctic birds'-eggs, to the Nation. With all these and many other important additions, the British Museum now contains by far the most extensive and valuable collection of birds'-eggs in the world, numbering some 50,000 specimens.

The present volume is illustrated by a series of 18 excellent coloured plates, drawn by Mr. Grönwald. While we most heartily recognise the thoroughness and exactness with which the author of the present volume has fulfilled his difficult task, there can be no harm in expressing a wish that the "explanation" of these plates had been managed in a different way. The names of the species figured might well have been placed on the plates themselves, or at least on an opposite page, instead of being all run together at the commencement. Some of them also (*e. g.*, that of *Colymbus pacificus*, pl. xi. fig. 6) are wrongly numbered in the letterpress.

139. Reichenow's 'Birds of Africa.'

[Die Vögel Afrikas von Ant. Reichenow. Erster Band. Zweite Hälfte. 4to. Neudamm, 1901. Pp. xvii-civ, 321-706. Price 50s.]

Dr. Reichenow completes the first volume of his Birds of Africa by the issue of the present part (*cf.* above, p. 142), which carries on the subject to the end of the Strigidæ

(according to the system which he follows). Thus this volume gives us an account of 560 species, belonging to 30 families.

We observe that even glaring faults of grammar are not corrected in the nomenclature adopted (e. g., *Aplopelia*) and that "homonyms" are in use throughout. The occurrence of *Baleniceps rex* on Lake Victoria (see above, p. 156) is apparently not credited (p. 357). *Balearica gibbericeps* is wisely reduced to the rank of a subspecies—is it even that?

140. Rothschild and Hartert on Papuan Birds.

[Notes on Papuan Birds. By the Hon. W. Rothschild, Ph.D., and Ernst Hartert. (Continued.) Nov. Zool. viii. p. 102.]

The authors continue their notes on the large series of Papuan birds in the Tring Museum, and discuss the Columbæ, Megapodidæ, Rallidæ, Limicolæ, and Alcedinidæ. The following new names are proposed:—*Ptilinopus gestroi kaporensis* (from Kapoor), *Syma torotoro meeki* (from British New Guinea), and *S. t. ochracea* (from the D'Entrecasteaux group). Some species, in our opinion well-marked, are reduced to subspecific rank—e. g., *Ptilopus bellus* and *P. johannis*, which surely should not be placed in the same category as the multitudinous races of *Macropygia*.

141. Shufeldt on the Osteology of the Penguins.

[Osteology of the Penguins. By Dr. R. W. Shufeldt, C.M.Z.S., M.A.O.U. Journ. Anat. Phys. xxxv. p. 390, 1901.]

The author having carefully consulted the writings of Watson, Coues, Newton, Milne-Edwards, Selater, and others on the Spheniscidæ, and having studied the ample material in the U.S. National Museum, thinks it well to furnish in an article of some fourteen pages a compendium of our knowledge of the group up to the present time. The learned Doctor's good work is so well known that we are sure many will join with us in the wish that there had been a little less Watson and a little more Shufeldt, for there does not seem to be much in this useful compilation that is unfamiliar, except with regard to the second ramal foramen of the

mandible and a few facts concerning the dorsal vertebræ and coracoid. The writer is more than ever convinced of the low morphological rank of the Impennes, and of the great difficulty in deciding upon their affinities. The skeleton of *Spheniscus demersus* is figured, as are also bones from the leg of *Aptenodytes* and *Eudyptes*.

142. *Shufeldt on Scopus and Balæniceps.*

[Notes on the Osteology of *Scopus umbretta* and *Balæniceps rex*. By R. W. Shufeldt, M.D., C.M.Z.S. Journ. Anat. Phys. xxxv. p. 405, 1901.]

As Dr. Shufeldt was unable to procure a specimen of *Balæniceps* for the purposes of this paper, he was obliged to rely for his facts concerning that species entirely on the memoir of W. K. Parker; but the detailed examination of an excellent mounted skeleton of *Scopus* (which he figures) has given him the opportunity of comparing the osteology of the two forms at considerable length, and of corroborating the views of Parker and Beddard as to their relationships. In the skull, the axial skeleton, and the appendicular skeleton, much greater affinity is shown to the Storks than to the Herons. A table of the author's classification of the Herodiones will be found in the paper noticed below.

143. *Shufeldt on the Herodiones.*

[Osteology of the Herodiones. By Dr. R. W. Shufeldt. Ann. Carnegie Mus. i. pp. 158-249, 1900.]

This illustrated memoir, though dated 1900 in the text, was evidently written after the two foregoing articles, and contains Dr. Shufeldt's final Classification of the Suborder, which is as follows:—

	<i>Superfamilies.</i>	<i>Families.</i>	
<i>Suborder</i> Herodiones	{	Ibidoidea	Plataleidæ. Ibididæ.
		Ciconoidea	Ciconiidæ. Scopidæ.
		Balænicipitoidea	Balænicipidæ. Cancromidæ. Ardeidæ.

The work is a development of the "Osteological Studies of the Subfamily Ardeinæ" (chiefly concerned with *Ardea herodias*), published in various parts of the 'Journal of Comparative Medicine and Surgery,' a periodical confined to a relatively small circle of readers. A large amount of new material has now enabled Dr. Slufeldt to add so considerably to his information, not only about the Herons proper, but about their nearest relatives as well, that he has considered it time to republish the body of the original work with additions, and to supplement it by an account of the schemes of Classification since 1867, and by dissertations on the osteology of *Tantalus loculator*, of *Mycteria americana*, of the Ibises, and of *Ajaja ajaja*. The author deplors the lack of a perfect skeleton of the last-named, while of *Mycteria* only a sternum and a shoulder-girdle were to hand.

144. *Slater on the Birds of Iceland.*

[Manual of the Birds of Iceland. By Henry H. Slater, M.A., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U. 8vo. David Douglas: Edinburgh, 1901. Pp. i-xxiii and 1-150. Price 5s.]

Mr. Slater has for some time been expected to publish a book on the Birds of Iceland, a task for which he is unusually well qualified from his energetic exploration of the country and his excellent knowledge of its Ornithology. The work now before us will be most useful to all who visit the island, and successfully combines the character of a manual for the general public with that of a scientific treatise for the expert. For the latter, however, a few more text-references to the literature would have added to the advantage to be gained from the full Bibliography. Extending from Snorro Sturleson to the present day, the publications which the author has had to consult are many and scattered, while the fact that they are written in Icelandic, Danish, German, Latin, and English makes a comprehensive work on the birds and their status the more valuable.

We are sorry to hear that the Raven, Iceland Falcon, Grey Phalarope, Black-tailed Godwit, and Little Auk are decidedly

decreasing in numbers, owing to the failure of the Close-Season Law of 1885 (printed in full) to protect birds' eggs, and that the scrub suffers from the ravages of sheep, much as the forests in the Sandwich Islands do from those of cattle. At the present time a comparison of the avifauna of Iceland and Shetland affords many points of interest, especially as regards migration.

Mr. Slater, of whose tone we do not always quite approve, takes exception to certain points in the writings of modern authorities, especially as regards the Icelandic names of birds and their orthography; but he rightly hesitates to accept every record of a bird's occurrence, or even positively to affirm his own experience as to the nesting of the Sanderling. Many names, such as Kite, Cuckoo, and Stork, are shown to be commonly met with in Icelandic literature, although such species are quite unknown in the island. The erroneous record of *Tringa fuscicollis* proves to have been due to a misapplication of the name *T. schinzi*.

A few slight textual errors may well be attributed to the printer, but in the article on the Northern Wren, a piecing together of notes has caused the author first to say that he never met with the bird, and then to describe his discovery of it. With regard to facts gleaned from the Durham University Museum, it may be added that W. Proctor owned at least one supposed egg both of the Pomatorhine Skua and of the Grey Plover from Iceland, with others of the so-called *Fratercula glacialis*—records of little value in themselves, but shewing, in the first case, that Faber was not alone in his statement about the breeding. Proctor, moreover, firmly denied that the Eared Grebe nested in Iceland.

Grave doubts are expressed as to the breeding of the King Eider, the Gargauey, and other birds. Mr. Slater's own records of the Common Golden-eye and of the Sooty Shearwater will be found in their proper place, while special attention is drawn to the fact of many of the breeding species failing to attain their full nuptial plumage in Iceland.